



NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION EDUCATOR PREPARATION NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2023

The Office of Higher Education (OHE) newsletter describes the current and upcoming activities related to higher education, with a particular focus on the preparation of educators. This newsletter, past newsletters, and a subscription link are available online on the [OHE website](#).

BOARD OF REGENTS SEPTEMBER ITEMS

Computer Science Certification. The Department [proposed a regulatory amendment](#) to extend the dates listed in the computer science tenure area regulations from September 1, 2023 to September 1, 2024. This one-year extension is consistent with previous amendments made by the Board of Regents at its October 2022 meeting, extending the Computer Science Statement of Continued Eligibility (SOCE) application deadline to September 1, 2024. Public comments on the proposal can be submitted to oheregcomments@nysed.gov through November 27, 2023.

Supplementary Certificate and Supplementary Bilingual Education Extension. Communities across New York State are experiencing an influx of recently arrived and asylum-seeking students and families. The Board of Regents and the Department are committed to supporting local educational agencies (LEAs) in delivering high-quality educational services to all students, including recently arrived children and youth. Due to the unanticipated increase in the enrollment of speakers of languages other than English, some LEAs need help hiring the additional educators necessary to support these new English language learners in schools. Therefore, the Department [adopted an emergency amendment](#) to provide flexibilities for certain educators who apply for the Supplementary certificate and Supplementary Bilingual Education extension between September 12, 2023 and August 31, 2024. The amendment creates flexibility so that educators can expeditiously obtain this certificate and extension to address this influx of students. Comments on the proposal can be submitted to oheregcomments@nysed.gov through November 27, 2023.

ASSESSMENT VOUCHERS

The annual assessment fee vouchers for the [NYSTCE certification tests](#) will be sent by email to Education Deans and Directors during the first week of October.

School Counselor Certification. The Department [adopted an emergency amendment](#) to provide flexibility for candidates seeking an [Initial School Counselor certificate](#) through the individual evaluation pathway. The proposed amendment offers two additional options for candidates to satisfy the practicum and internship requirements. The first option recognizes that a candidate who completed a preparation program leading to Provisional and Permanent School Counselor certification has met the practicum and internship requirements for an Initial School Counselor certificate. The second option would consider the practicum and internship requirements as met for candidates who

WEBSITES

[Office of Higher Education Certification](#)
[Office of College and University Evaluation](#)
[NYSTCE](#)
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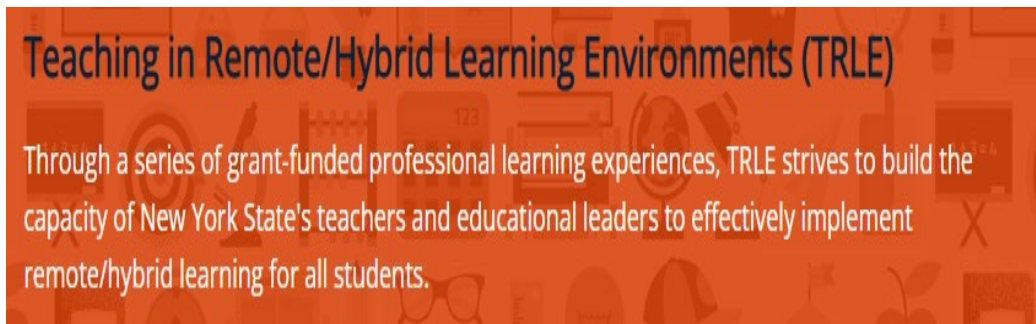
completed a master's or higher degree program in school counseling accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Education Programs (CACREP) from an acceptable institution of higher education. The proposed options will ensure that candidates are more likely to be able to obtain Initial certification so that there will be a larger pool of candidates to provide school counselor services at a time when these services are of critical importance, especially given their essential role in working with children who are dealing with challenges stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. The proposed amendment also removes a requirement that a candidate enter into an agreement with the internship employing school or district, as this requirement only applies to the preparation program pathway and is unrelated to the individual evaluation pathway. Public comments on the proposal can be submitted to oheregcomments@nysed.gov through November 27, 2023.

Science of Reading. Department staff and guests, including Dr. Nonie K. Lesaux, who is the Roy E. Larsen Professor of Education and Human Development at Harvard University, [presented an overview](#) of the "Science of Reading" and evidence-based practices in reading instruction. The presentation highlighted how three NYS school districts and BOCES are approaching literacy in their schools. Department staff reviewed the P-12 Next Generation English Language Arts Learning Standards, its service-oriented approach to Standards implementation, literacy resources that the Department makes available to the public, and its P-20 literacy initiative comprised of three strategies. The guest speakers focused on literacy knowledge, skills, and competencies for all learners; key ideas and myths; design for learning; and literacy and its connections to brain science and social-emotional learning.

VIRTUAL IMPLEMENTATION OF TEACHING AND LEARNING (VITAL) EDUCATOR PROGRAM

NYSED is pleased to announce the launch of the [VITAL Educator Program](#), which is a comprehensive, year-long, statewide professional learning opportunity funded through the Department's [TRLE Grant](#) designed to build the foundation for improving and expanding virtual learning opportunities in New York State. VITAL educators will participate in professional development modules and additional train-the-trainer activities to

facilitate their ability to train others on virtual instructional design, curriculum, and practice. Eligible applicants include current, professionally, or permanently



certified NYS K-12 teachers, administrators, and staff developers, as well as faculty members of educator preparation programs in New York State institutions of higher education. NYSED will select approximately 125 educators representing diverse regions, groups, content areas, grade levels, and positions within the education system to participate in the program. Chosen educators will receive a stipend of \$14,500 following program completion and will receive official designation by NYSED as a VITAL Trainer. All work will take place virtually, both synchronously and asynchronously, throughout the 2023-24 school year. Efforts will be made to schedule synchronous meetings after the school day. The [online application is now available](#), and applications are due **October 13**.

More information can be found on [NYSED's VITAL Educator webpage](#) or by contacting The Office of Educational Design and Technology at vital@nysed.gov.

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